

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the examiner stated that the Oath/Declaration does not identify the city and state of residence of the inventor. Please note that this application was filed with a Declaration (facsimile copy) and an Application Data Sheet. The Application Data Sheet (copy enclosed) indicates the inventor's residence. Also attached to this Response is the original signed Declaration.

Claims 1-14 were allowed by the examiner and claims 16, 18, 20 and 23 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant would like to defer rewriting of claims 16, 18, 20 and 23 in independent form pending the examiner's reconsideration of this application.

Claims 15, 17, 19, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 5,841,595 to Martinez, Sr.

Martinez, Sr. shows a frame 12 having four plastic side members 20 that correspond to the sides of a rectangle. The side member 20, in cross section (Fig. 2), is U-shaped and includes a forward surface 16 and a rearward surface 18 joined by an outer face 21. The forward and rearward surfaces 16, 18 constitute opposite legs of the "U" and the outer face 21 constitutes the base of the "U".

Martinez, Sr. shows in Figs. 1 and 2 that the mirror film 22 is supported on the forward surface 16, which is one of the legs of the U-shaped side member 20. It should be noted that the leg 16 is parallel to the rearward surface (also known as “pan surface”) of the mirror 10, which is a continuation of the rearward leg 18 (Fig. 2).

Applicant’s claim 15 requires:

“...a...support housing...having a pan surface and a hollow wall of U-shaped cross section...the hollow wall having spaced inside and outside wall portions and a film mounting surface portion...joining the spaced inside and outside wall portions...”

As will be apparent from Figs. 11 and 14, applicant’s reflecting film 12 is supported on the film mounting surface 62 (Fig. 4) which corresponds to the base of the U-shaped section of the hollow wall 42, not a leg of the U-shaped section as in Martinez, Sr.

It is thus submitted that applicant’s claimed structure differs from the structure disclosed in Martinez, Sr. and has advantages over Martinez, Sr.

For example, applicant’s structure is easier to mold in one-piece than Martinez, Sr. because the opening of applicant’s U-shaped wall is in a plane parallel to the pan surface whereas the opening of the U-shaped wall in Martinez, Sr. is in a plane perpendicular to the pan surface.

Based on the differences and advantages of applicant's structure as claimed in claim 15 over Martinez, Sr., it is submitted that claim 15 is allowable and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 17 and 19 which directly or indirectly depend on claim 15 are likewise submitted as allowable for the reasons supporting allowance of claim 15 as well as the distinctions defined therein.

Claims 16, 18 and 20 which also directly or indirectly depend on claim 15 have been acknowledged by the examiner to contain allowable subject matter. Allowance of claims 16-20 is thus respectfully requested.

Independent claim 21 is directed to a method of substantially eliminating the wrinkling of thin reflective film in a thin film mirror. Claim 21 requires:

“...molding...a hollow U-shaped wall...surrounding the pan surface, forming the hollow U-shaped wall with an open bottom portion...and...a top mounting surface...”

Martinez, Sr. shows a hollow U-shaped wall. However, the hollow U-shaped wall does not have an open bottom portion proximate the pan surface as will be apparent from Fig. 2 of Martinez, Sr. It is thus submitted that claim 21 is patentably distinguishable over Martinez, Sr. for reasons previously presented in the discussion of claim 15. Allowance of claim 21 is thus respectfully requested.

Claim 22 which depends on claim 21 is likewise submitted as allowable for the reasons supporting allowance of claim 21 as well as the distinctions defined therein.

Claim 23 was found to have allowable subject matter by the examiner.

It is thus submitted that claims 22-23 are allowable and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks it is submitted this application is in condition for allowance and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

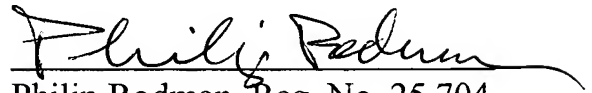
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Respectfully submitted,


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